

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 10318-US-PA
Application No.: 10/710,659

In The Drawings:

Please substitute the attached clean drawing of Fig. 2 for the pending drawing of Fig. 2.

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REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The drawings and specification are objected. The Office Action rejected all presently pending claims 1-4. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement and as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action further rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko et al. (US 4,331,996). The Office Action also rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko et al. and Solomon (US 5,053,978). Applicants have amended a drawing and the specification to overcome the objection and have amended claims 1, 3 and 4 to improve clarity. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-4 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of objections

According to the Office Action, the drawings were objected to since an upper trace in Fig.2 is drawn such that it is hard to understand. In response thereto, applicants have amended the upper trace into two traces for easy understanding.

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Tying errors in claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended. Further, paragraph [0008] of the specification is amended and therefore "time T6" is substituted by "time T5". Every feature in the amended Specification and Claims are shown in Figs. 1-3 and paragraph [0019] of the Specification. No new matter is entered.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. More particularly, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Office Action rejected claim 1 for the following phrase in the claim: "the switch circuit, for determining whether or not to turn on/off said switch circuit". The Applicants amend the claim 1 as above such that the switch circuit is determined whether or not to turn on/off by said starter circuit. Accordingly, withdrawn of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further rejected claim 1 due to following "said starter relay and timer relay are connected in parallel", and the Office Action asserted that both relays form an OR logic connection. However, two devices connecting in parallel means that the voltage difference between the connected ends of the two devices are the same. (Fundamentals of Electric Circuits, 2/e, by Charles K. Alexander & Matthew N.O. Sadiku, Chapter 2.3) That is, the voltage difference between the right and left ends of the starter relay 24 shown in FIG. 3 is the same as the voltage difference between the right and left ends of the timer relay 25. Even both relays form

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an OR logic connection, it means that the "result of the OR logic" is obtained on the right ends of the starter relay 24 and timer relay 25 but not means that whenever timer is activated, the starter relay is activated too. In other words, because the timer relay 25 and the starter relay 24 could be designed such that they are turned on/off in different situations, it is possible that the starter relay 24 remains off while the timer relay 25 is on. Accordingly, withdrawn of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. To overcome the rejection, the Applicants amend the claim as above. Accordingly, withdrawn of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko et al. (US 4,331,996). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

As stated in the Office Action, the AAPA does not disclose activation of the starter relay in a power-up process (page 5 – page 6). However, the AAPA does not disclose the claimed feature "said timer switch and said switch circuit are connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit, said starter relay and timer relay are connected in parallel forming a second parallel circuit, said first parallel circuit and said second circuit are connected in series" as claimed in claim 1, either.

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Even combined with Matsko, combination of the AAPA and Matsko still does not disclose the following feature "said timer switch and said switch circuit are connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit, said starter relay and timer relay are connected in parallel forming a second parallel circuit, said first parallel circuit and said second circuit are connected in series" as claimed in claim 1. The Office Action states that "...the starter relay (element UVRC in Fig. 1) ... The timer relay determines whether or not to turn on/off the timer switch (element UVRC in Fig. 1)..." in page 6. Therefore, the Office Action takes the element UVRC as the starter relay and the timer switch. However, the timer switch should connect parallel with the switch circuit, and the starter relay should connect parallel with the timer relay as claimed in claim 1. *It is impossible to simultaneously parallel connected with timer relay and switch circuit while timer relay is serially connected with the switch circuit.* Therefore, combination of the AAPA and Matsko does not render claim 1 obvious.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over AAPA and Matsko.

As a matter of law, claims 3 and 4 are patentable over AAPA and Matsko since their dependent claim, claim 1, is patentable over AAPA and Matsko.

The Office Action further rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon (US 5,053,978). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

As discussed above, the AAPA does not disclose activation of the starter relay in a power-up process (page 5 – page 6). However, the AAPA does not disclose the claimed feature

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"said timer switch and said switch circuit are connected in parallel forming a first parallel circuit, said starter relay and timer relay are connected in parallel forming a second parallel circuit, said first parallel circuit and said second circuit are connected in series" as claimed in claim 1, either. Even combined with Matsko, combination of the AAPA and Matsko still does not disclose the same feature and therefore combination of the AAPA and Matsko does not render claim 1 obvious. Further, even combined with Solomon, the combination of AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon does not disclose the same feature of claim 1 stated above, and therefore does not render claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon.

Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over AAPA in view of Matsko and Solomon as a matter of law since its dependent claim, i.e., claim 1, is patentable over AAPA.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-4 patently define over the prior art as well.

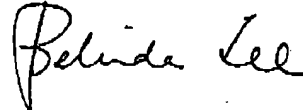
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-4 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: *May 27, 2005*



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